

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /067 W

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R 171650Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4596

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13942

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, UR

SUBJECT: TASS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

1. DURING OCTOBER 15 DINNER PARTY AT HOME OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CHIEF OF TASS BUREAU IN INDIA, DR. VLADIMIR N. MAYASH, COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY. CONVERSATION CIRCLE INCLUDED MATYASH, A CONGRESS-R MP AND TWO EMBOFFS. AT ONE POINT DURING THE EXCHANGE, MATYASH CONTENDED HE WAS SPEAKING AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

2. IN DISCUSSION INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY, MATYASH STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED INDIA'S OBJECTIVES TO BECOME A NUCLEAR POWER. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS SUPPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SOVIET DESIRE TO SEE INDIA STRENGTHENED ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY, AND MILITARILY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE USSR WITHOUT QUALIFICATION SUPPORTS MRS. GANDHI AND HER GOVERNMENT.

3. MATYASH THEN STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT EVEN CRITICIZE INDIA IF IT DEVELOPS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SINCE SUCH A STEP WOULD INCREASE INDIA'S POWER. PRESENTLY THE  
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USSR'S MOST POWERFUL FRIENDS IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE MIDDLE

EAST ARE INDIA AND IRAQ. TO THE EXTENT THAT THEIR POWER  
AND INFLUENCE GROW, THE SOVIET UNION WILL BENEFIT.

4. NOTE: MATYASH HAS BEEN IN INDIA FOR FOUR AND ONE-HALF  
YEARS. HE TRAVELS WIDELY THROUGHOUT SOUTH ASIA AND VISITS  
MOSCOW AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR. HIS COMMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN  
AT LEAST PARTIALLY DIRECTED AT THE CONGRESS-R MP PARTICIPATING  
IN THE CONVERSATION.

5. MEMCON COVERING OTHER TOPICS AS WELL AS NUCLEAR MATTERS  
IS BEING POUCHED.  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

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